

GENERAL SUMMARY OF THEMES RAISED AS PART OF OUTREACH

Please Note: This document represents a small sample of the common themes from the outreach comments that have been received by the Community Development Department to this point. A complete set of comments will be provided to the Planning Commission at a future meeting.

Question 1: What do you like most about Lewis County?

- “Low cost of living, green areas, casual atmosphere”
 - “Uncluttered space, multiple clear waterways, outdoor recreation possibilities, beautiful!, the rural nature of area (farmlands, extremely colorful fall colors, lush forests)”
 - “Small town feel and variety of countryside”
 - “Mountain towns, history of Lewis County”
 - “The people”
 - “Pace-peacefulness”
 - “Rural, scenic, fairly politically conservative”
 - “The rural areas, small towns like Mossyrock, Toledo, Onalaska, access to mountains, lakes, rain”
 - “It is more country yet we have stores and good schools. I love the sports for kids”
 - “Privacy”
 - “All the farms and farmland”
 - “Country areas, beauty”
 - “Quiet, nature”
 - “Very friendly people - helpful too!”
 - “Lewis County is filled with kind people”
 - “The community activities in Lewis County (SW Washington Fair, ARTrails, Tractor Parade, etc.)”
 - “It is affordable”
 - “The libraries”
 - “Rural lifestyle, lack of government interference with citizen”
 - “The laid back, friendly, less-crowded nature. No traffic”
 - “Living in the county away from people”
 - “It's a great place to raise kids. I love the people – friendly and proud of their county. It's a "safe" place to live. Great opportunity to run a business or retire. Plenty to do as far as involvement (too busy)”
-
- Rural Lifestyle
 - Scenery/Beauty
 - Outdoor Activities (Hunting, Fishing, Swimming, Hiking)/Access to Natural Lands
 - Diversity of Landscape (Farms, Forests, Mountains)
 - Natural Places (Rivers, Mountains, etc.)
 - Small Towns/Small Town Feel
 - Lack of Traffic
 - Pace
 - Friendliness of People
 - Sense of Community
 - Good Place to Raise Kids
 - Affordable
 - Good Location (Close Enough to Olympia, Portland/Seattle, but still rural)
 - History

Question 2: What would you Change?

- "More activities, more jobs, more money"
 - "Find some way to help small communities grow again. They have become ghost towns and it is heart breaking to see all these empty business buildings. The small towns in Lewis County used to be thriving"
 - "More events for broke college students; hang out place for 18-24 year olds for people who move here to meet people"
 - "We have inadequate internet, phone, TV; drug and poverty problems and gangs/tagging needs to be eliminated here....homes needing repair-unsafe and eyesore-embarrassing that "we" haven't taken care of these basic needs issues..."
 - "Fix trashy areas"
 - "Less drugs and less homelessness"
 - "Roads are an issue; large drug problem; finding a job is so much harder"
 - "Fix the damn roads"
 - "I would like to see the economy improve and small industries come into the area"
 - "More jobs in East County"
 - "Rules restricting agritourism in regards to access to private farms and event restrictions"
 - "Give us greater freedom - cause the administration to be "can do" rather than "cannot do""
 - "Less government"
 - "Would want more stuff for kids so there's less trouble"
 - "To somehow lessen the drug problem. Impossible, I know"
 - "Attitudes"
 - "Flooding"
 - "More public transportation"
 - "Nothing"
-
- More jobs (including entry level jobs for students)
 - More better paying jobs/family wage jobs
 - More sustainable businesses
 - More community activities/fun things to do
 - More vital small towns (better local economy and more diversity in businesses)
 - Fewer rundown homes
 - Less drugs
 - More services/better integration of communities with services
 - More youth programs/activities for kids
 - Better roads
 - Less government/regulations
 - Less impacts from floods
 - More transportation alternatives
 - More positivity

Question 3: What is your vision for Lewis County in the future?

- “To prosper. To grow and yet retain the great atmosphere of "safe and friendly" with more emphasis on economic growth”
 - “Keep it as much as possible as is while giving people the opportunity to be more prosperous”
 - “A place for families to earn a living”
 - “More career options. Bring in companies that can employ our population”
 - “More jobs to attract a younger population”
 - “A rural, natural resource-based economy where people work together”
 - “Still keeping small town feel. Keeping local businesses thriving, clean up cities (broken houses, old businesses, cleaning streets)”
 - “Better streets. Better sidewalks”
 - “Maintain rural atmosphere with modern conveniences”
 - “Keep the feel (slower pace/friendly) while bringing us into the future, with up-to-date communications, destinations, etc.”
 - “Clean air and clear streams and lakes”
 - “Promote farms and added income possibilities with agritourism”
 - “More community events/involvement”
 - “Less government control over land and water and timber”
 - “More help for mentally ill and drug addicted, especially the young people, preferably through charitable groups”
 - “We can go a long ways if everyone helps each other. Help the little ones on the totem pole. Those who need help, help them”
 - “A close knit community helping each other”
 - “For everyone to get along and no more drama”
-
- Better jobs
 - A robust/diverse economy
 - Safe communities
 - Slow pace
 - More tourism. Be a place where people love to visit
 - Add activities, destinations and excitement
 - Stay small (i.e. a lower population)
 - Have more things to do
 - Improve streets
 - Add vitality in small towns
 - Add to the diversity of businesses in small towns (pharmacy in Randle and Packwood, doctor in Packwood, etc.)
 - Provide more support for the small towns
 - Keep small towns unique
 - Continue to be affordable
 - Have less drugs, less crime
 - Promote more cooperation between people/businesses/local governments
 - Encourage more community closeness